

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11  
HA-05 OMB-01 /072 W  
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P 290301Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5046

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 06953

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, RP  
SUBJECT: POST-ELECTION DEVELOPMENTS: OPPOSITION VIEWS  
AND ACTIVITIES

REFS: (A) MANILA 6331, (B) MANILA 6329

1. WE HAVE NOW HEARD SEPARATELY FROM LABAN CANDIDATE MITRA AND SENATOR SALONGA THAT, CONTRARY TO EARLIER INDICATION FROM ALEJANDRO ROCES (REF A) AND PROPOSAL BY CARDINAL SIN (REF B), LABAN WILL NOT MAKE A FORMAL PROTEST OF THE ELECTIONS. BOTH POINTED OUT THAT IT WOULD BE USELESS TO BRING PROTEST OF ELECTORAL FRAUD TO THE COMELEC SINCE COMELEC IS IN MARCOS' POCKET AND WOULD TAKE NO CONSTRUCTIVE ACTION. INSTEAD, LABAN ON APRIL 27 LODGED A "MANIFESTATION" WITH THE COMELEC, A DOCUMENT WHICH EVIDENTLY CATALOGS THE REPORTED FRAUDS BUT WHICH REQUESTS NO COMELEC INVESTIGATION. PRESUMABLY LABAN WILL SEEK TO DISTRIBUTE THIS DOCUMENT TO THE MEDIA AND SYMPATHETIC PARTIES.

2. BOTH MITRA AND SALONGA CHARACTERIZED THE GOP CHEATING AS OF MASSIVE DIMENSIONS. MITRA STATED THAT, WITH HONEST COUNTING, LABAN WOULD HAVE TAKEN 80 PERCENT OF THE METRO MANILA VOTE. SALONGA NOTED ROMULO'S  
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RECENT STATEMENT ABOUT THE CLEANEST ELECTIONS IN HISTORY AND ASSERTED THAT JUST THE OPPOSITE WAS TRUE. GOING BACK TO THE EARLY DAYS OF THE COMMONWEALTH, SALONGA CONTINUED, HE DID NOT BELIEVE THERE HAD EVER BEEN A DIRTIER ELECTION IN THE PHILIPPINES. HE CITED, FOR EXAMPLE, THE USE OF FALSE BALLOTS AND GOVERNMENTAL PRESSURES ON TEACHERS (POLLING SUPERVISORS) AND CIVIL

SERVANTS AS UNPRECEDENTED IN SCOPE. SALONGA WAS PARTICULARLY DISTRESSED OVER THE CARROT-AND-STICK CORRUPTION OF THE TEACHERS (A GIFT OF 200 PESOS EACH TOGETHER WITH THE THREAT OF JOB LOSS) WHICH WAS APPARENTLY A KEY ELEMENT IN THE GOP'S EFFORTS TO MANIPULATE THE ELECTIONS. SOME TEACHERS RESISTED; BUT MANY MORE SUCCUMBED.

3. SALONGA (AQUINO'S LAWYER) TOLD US HE WAS PERMITTED TO VISIT AQUINO AGAIN RECENTLY AFTER BEING DENIED THIS RIGHT FOR SEVERAL WEEKS. AQUINO, HE REPORTS, IS QUITE DEPRESSED IN THIS POST-ELECTION PERIOD. AQUINO TOLD SALONGA THAT SALONGA WAS PROBABLY RIGHT ALL ALONG IN BOYCOTTING THE SHAM ELECTION. SALONGA, ON THE OTHER HAND, COMMENTED TO AQUINO THAT SOMETHING USEFUL HAD COME OUT OF THE ELECTION PROCESS. IF NOTHING MORE, SALONGA NOTED, MARCOS AND EVERYBODY ELSE NOW KNEW THAT THERE WERE SERIOUS CRACKS IN THE ALLEGED POPULARITY OF THE NEW SOCIETY. STULL

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ELECTION RESULTS, REPORTS, POLITICAL SITUATION, PUBLIC ATTITUDES, OPPOSITION PARTIES  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**To:** STATE  
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